

Concurrent Enrollment H.B. 79 S1

Concurrent enrollment provides credit for high school and college simultaneously, thus, it provides a big return on each dollar spent for the state of Utah. It may well be the best dollar spent in education.

Money saved by the state: \$17,528,513

Money saved in tuition: \$18,983,800

Last year, the legislature appropriated \$2.3 million (figure went from \$5,541,959 to \$8,292,331--an increase of just over \$2,750,000) to catch concurrent enrollment costs up to the historic figure of \$50 per credit hour; but even with this increase in funding, the reimbursement rate was just \$43.68 per credit hour.

This year, to keep it at the \$50 per credit hour level, assuming the same number of credit hours will be earned (189,838), approximately \$940,000 additional dollars are needed in addition to the \$8,554,831 outlined in HB 79.

The reason the per credit hour costs dwindled in the last several years (prior to the 2006 session) was because concurrent enrollment was so successful, while the amount allocated by the legislature was more static. Enrollment boomed to over 189,000 units of credit by 2005.

Up to this point in time, each district and college/university negotiated prices for the delivery of concurrent enrollment. Some were paying \$20 per credit hour, while others (like San Juan District that probably needs concurrent enrollment more than any other district given its remote locations of schools) were paying over \$50 per credit hour. Thus there was disparity in the state that the K-16 Alliance wanted to stabilize and equalize.

A significant percentage of all concurrent enrollment class work is taught on high school campuses.

In order to bring stability to the funding and the oversight, the Utah State Office of Education and the Commissioner's Office of Higher Education have met over this past year to agree on certain parameters regarding concurrent enrollment. These include (among others): (1) Agreement to jointly seek funding that is stable and that has an automatic WPU-enhanced escalator so that funding keeps pace with enrollment growth; (2) agreement to improve supervision and communication between public and higher education; (3) agreement that the composition of students in concurrent enrollment is roughly 50 percent of students who are seeking concurrent enrollment and 50 percent who are seeking only high school enrollment, with preferential seating for those seeking concurrent enrollment; (4) high rigor and expectations of all teachers/coursework so that concurrent enrollment classes mirror the rigor of any on-campus college course.